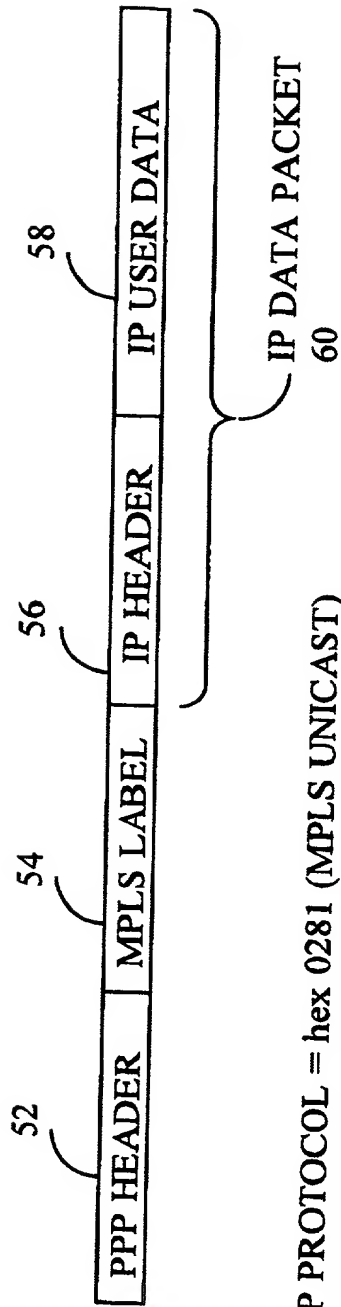


FIG. 1 PRIOR ART

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a packet structure in accordance with the present invention. The packet structure is shown as a sequence of fields: PPP HEADER, MPLS LABEL, IP HEADER, and IP USER DATA. The PPP HEADER field is labeled 52, the MPLS LABEL field is labeled 54, the IP HEADER field is labeled 56, and the IP USER DATA field is labeled 58. A bracket labeled 60 groups the IP HEADER and IP USER DATA fields, indicating they form the IP DATA PACKET. A reference numeral 50 points to the entire packet structure.

50



PPP PROTOCOL = hex 0281 (MPLS UNICAST)

PPP PROTOCOL = hex 0283 (MPLS MULTICAST)

FIG. 2 PRIOR ART

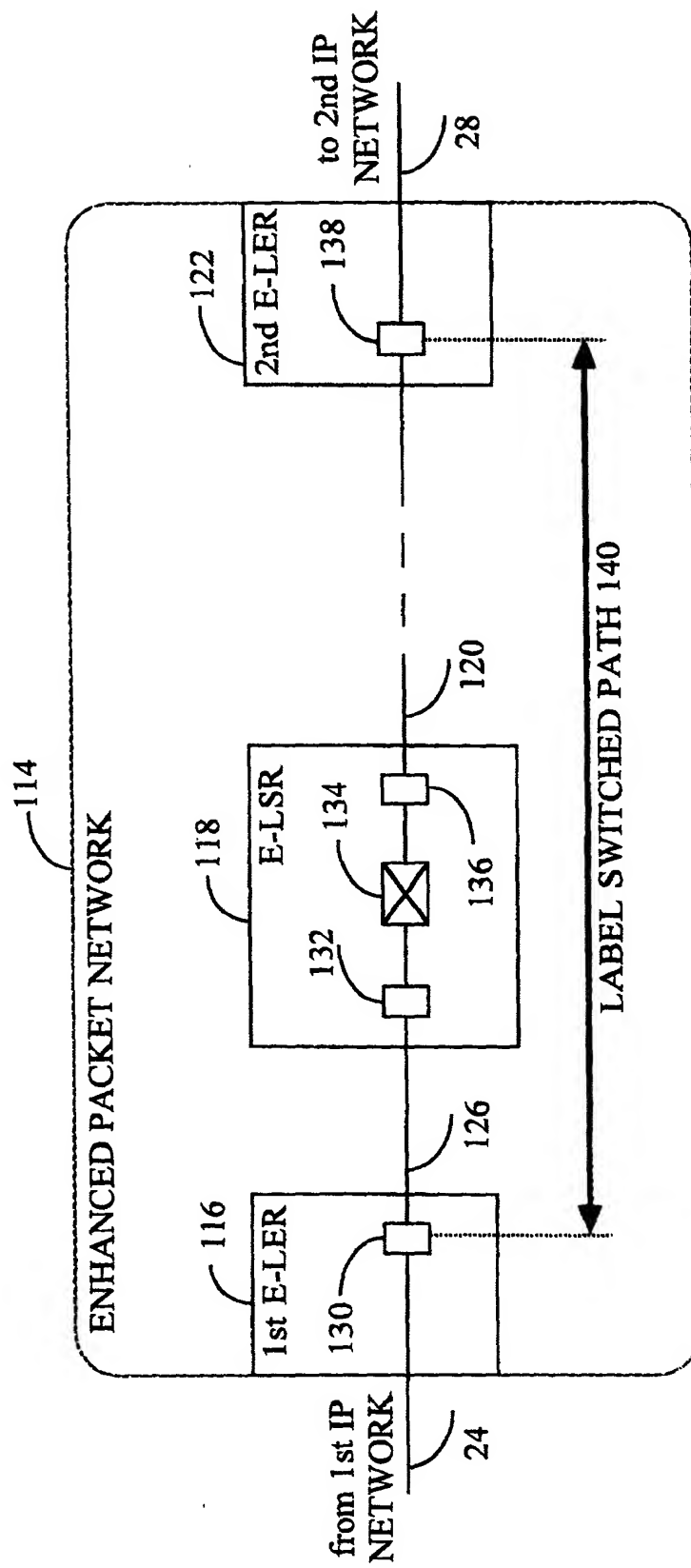


FIG. 3

116

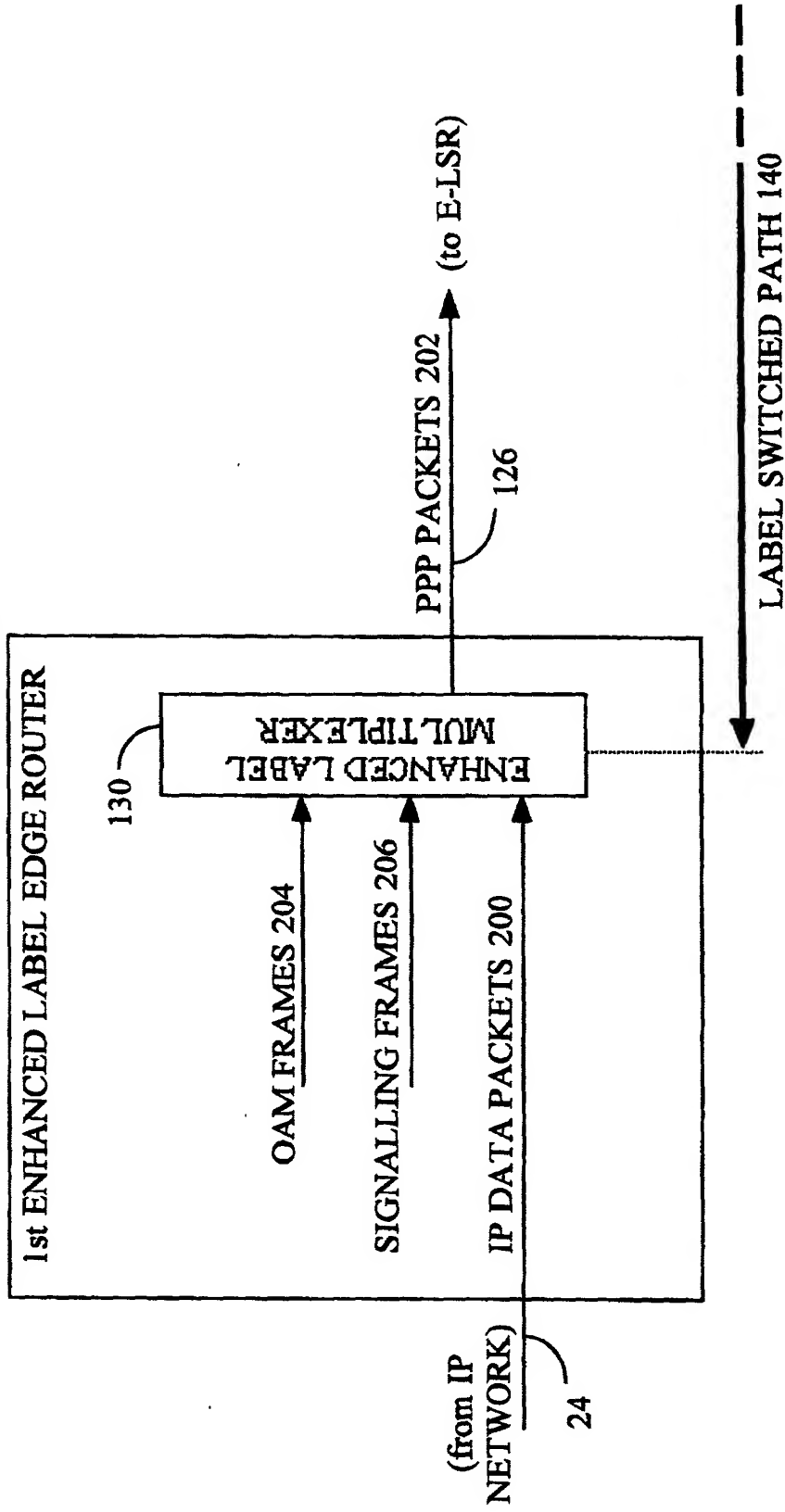


FIG. 4

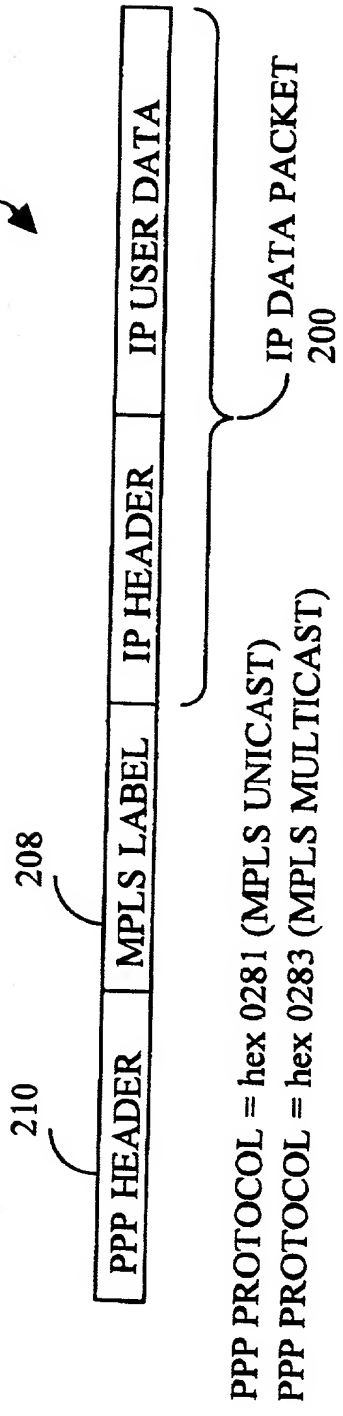


FIG. 5A

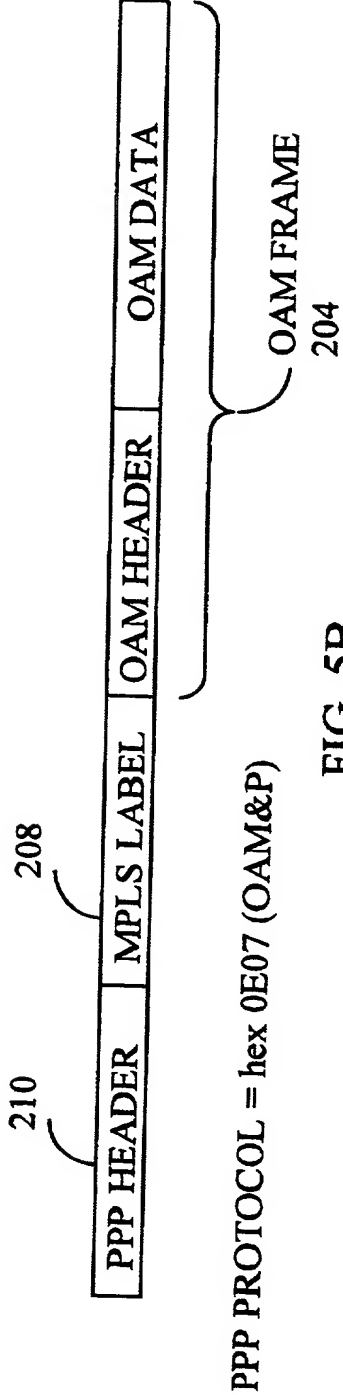


FIG. 5B

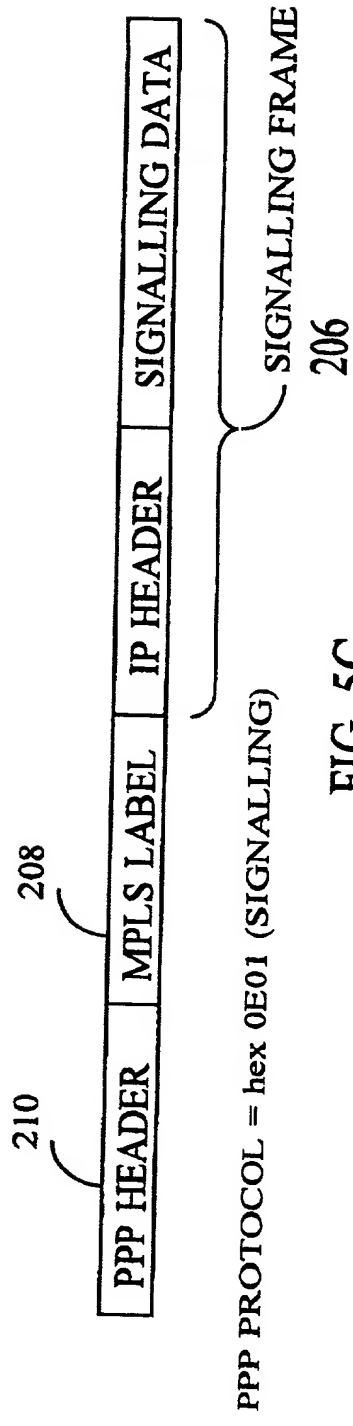
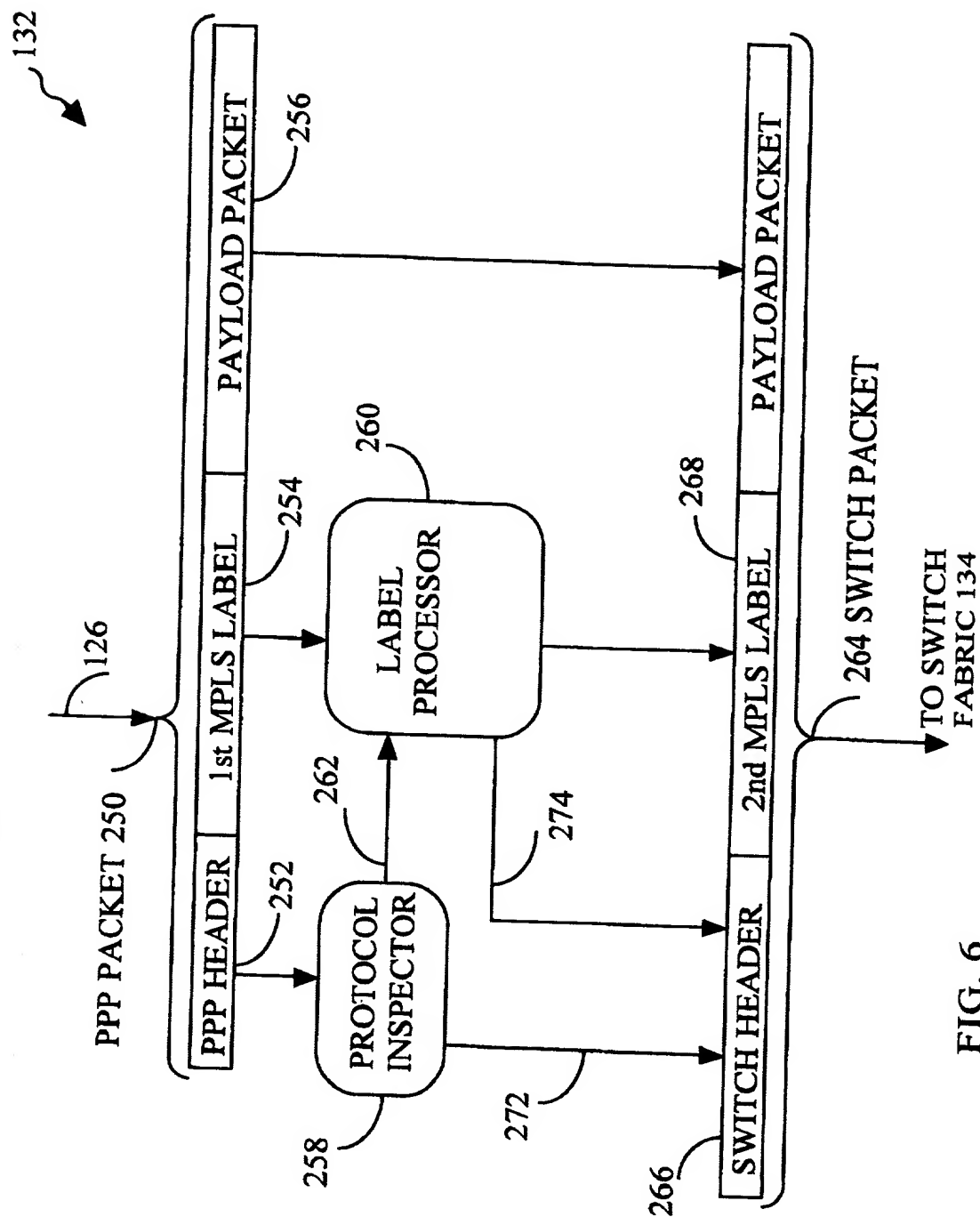


FIG. 5C



**FIG. 6**



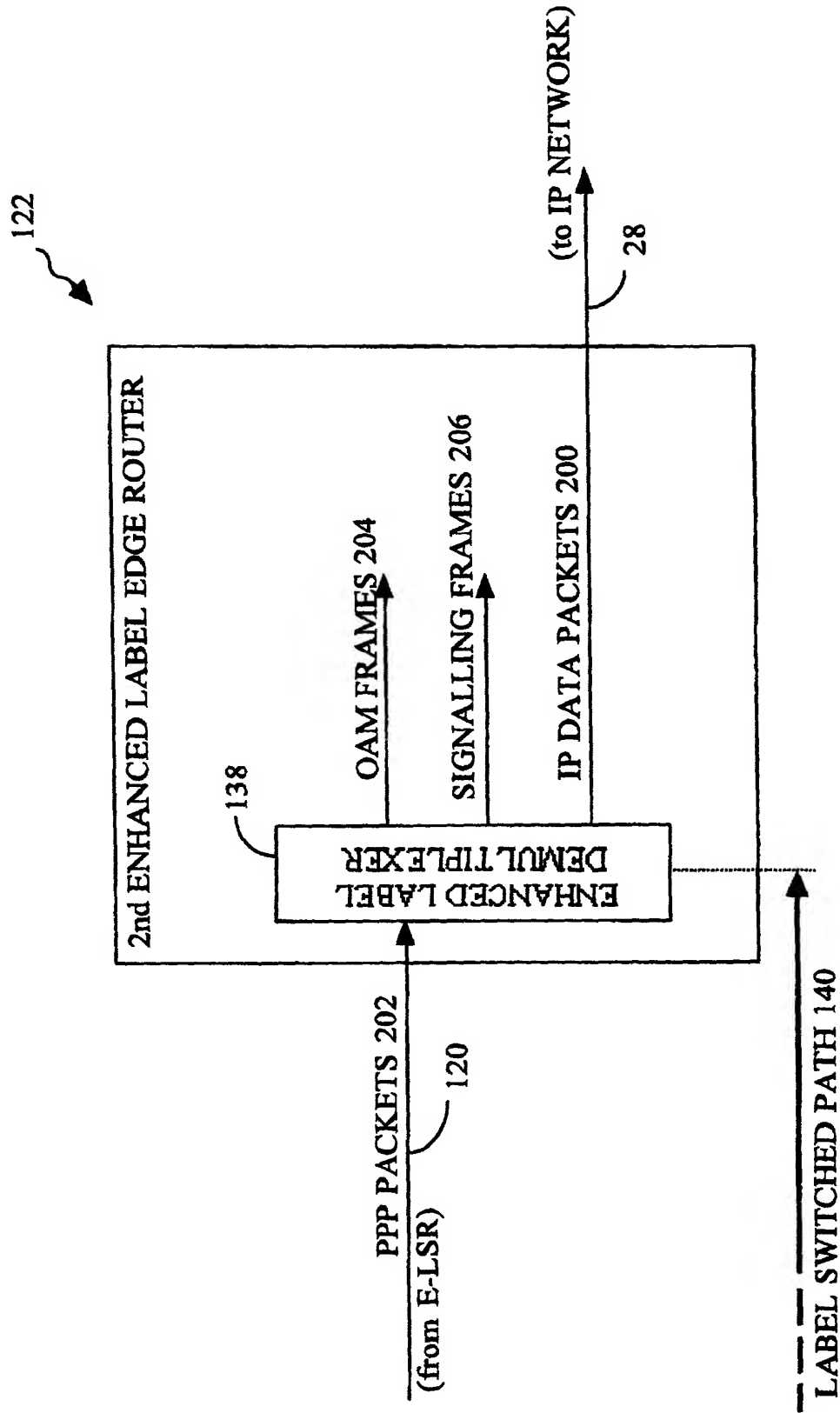


FIG. 8